

**Type:** Clinical Procedures**Subsection:** M- Methodology**Authority:** Executive Director with Medical Director**Related Documents:****Preamble**

Elastomeric Infusion Pumps are designed for resident comfort. It is a device used to deliver medications such as antibiotic therapy, chemotherapy, and pain management. The device can be used for both intermittent and continuous flow.

Policy

1. Elastomeric infusion devices are used to deliver medications via subcutaneous Saf-T-Intima single lumen subcutaneous port.
2. Elastomeric infusion devices are prepared in a pharmacy and are never filled or refilled in the hospice setting.
3. A physician must provide the following orders before the nurse can initiate the Elastomeric infusion device to administer medications:
 - 3.1. Medication, dosage, frequency, and route
 - 3.2. Duration of therapy

M-13.01 Background Information

In Elastomeric disposable devices, the pressure on the fluid is generated by the force of a stretched elastomer. Elastomeric disposable pumps consist of an elastomeric membrane, which contains the drug; the elastomeric membrane is contained within an outer protective shell. The outer protective shell can either be a conformable elastomer or a more rigid plastic receptacle. The soft Elastomeric outer shell offers less protection against sharps puncture but requires less storage and disposal space.

The flow rate is regulated by the size of the tubing. Once the medication administration is complete, the pump and tubing can be thrown into the garbage, considering it does not contain any controlled substances. Controlled substances are to be discarded into a "sharps container", and if waste is greater than 10 ml, it must be counted out for destruction by two Registered Staff members.

On the slower elastomeric pumps (e.g. 7 days) it can be difficult to know if the medication is infusing. Ensure all clamps are open and that there are no kinks in the tubing when you set up the infusion. As the registered staff member, be cognizant to check the balloon often, and to alert the physician and pharmacist if the balloon is not decreasing in size after a day or two after the initiation of the infusion or if target symptom (s) appear not to be managed.

M-13.02 Equipment

- Elastomeric infuser filled with medication (at room temperature).
- Alcohol swabs.
- Needleless access device.
- Waste receptacle.
- Sat-T-Intima single lumen subcutaneous port.
- Tegaderm.

M-13.03 Use of Elastomeric Infusion Pumps

1. Perform hand hygiene and don gloves and gown, if required.
2. Review the label on the Elastomeric infuser to ensure that you have the right medication, right patient, right route, right time, and the right dosage (rate and amount of medication) and compare it against the Physician order. Check that the medication has not expired.
3. Check the balloon to ensure that the balloon is intact and that there is no leakage.
4. Remove the Winged Luer Cap from the end of the tubing of the Elastomeric infuser. Open the clamp prior to connecting it to the resident to ensure that there is flow. Close clamp.
5. Immediately connect the full Elastomeric infuser to the Saf-T-Intima single lumen subcutaneous port.
6. Open all clamps on the port and Elastomeric infuser. Tape the flow restrictor portion of the tubing to the skin, while ensuring that the elastomeric pump is at room temperature.
7. Place the Elastomeric infuser in the carrying pouch and ensure that it is at the same height as the injection site.
8. Remove PPE if necessary.
9. Document procedure on appropriate flowsheets (MAR, IA)
10. Teach resident and/ or families to:
 - 10.1. Ensure that the tubing is free of kinks and clamp is open.
 - 10.2. Watch the balloon and to call for registered staff if the balloon is not decreasing in size at the expected rate.
 - 10.3. Call registered staff if:
 - The Elastomeric infuser or site is leaking
 - The resident experiences significant side effects related to the medication including an allergic response
 - The resident experiences any signs of infection
 - The Elastomeric infuser is empty
 - The resident does not appear to be experiencing relief from target symptom (s)
11. Document all teaching.

M-13.04 Disconnecting the Baxter Intermate Systems from Subcutaneous Port

Equipment:

1. Alcohol swabs.
2. Winged Luer Cap.
3. Sharp's container/waste receptacle.

Procedure:

1. Perform hand hygiene. Don gloves and gown if required.
2. Close clamp on Elastomeric infuser.
3. Unscrew the Elastomeric infuser tubing hub from the hub of the Saf-T-Intima subcutaneous single lumen port.
4. Attach a full Elastomeric infuser.
5. Replace the Winged Luer Cap on the Elastomeric infuser hub and place the empty Elastomeric infuser in the appropriate receptacle.
6. Remove gloves and gown if using and perform hand hygiene.
7. Document the procedure on the appropriate flow sheet.

M-13.05 Review Cycle

Clinical Policies shall be reviewed in the odd year.

Original Approval: 11-2020
Reviewed On:
Revised On: